

and reaffirming the commitment of Congress to the fight against anti-Semitism and intolerance in all forms, in all forums, and in all nations. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 520.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from the Chamber today during rollcall vote 520. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall vote and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 520—"yea."

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 520 I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have vote "yea."

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to vote on rollcall 520. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on this measure.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 520, on H. Con. Res. 248, I was in route to my Congressional District on official business. Had I been present, I would have vote "yea."

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 263) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 263

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, October 7, 2005, or Saturday, October 8, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2005, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Friday, October 7, 2005, or Saturday, October 8, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, October 17, 2005, or at such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on this legislative day,

it adjourn to meet at noon on the third constitutional day thereafter, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 263, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2005

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, October 19, 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

COMMUNITY DISASTER LOAN ACT OF 2005

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1858) to provide for community disaster loans, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, under my reservation, I ask the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) to explain the substance of the bill.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, there is within the construction of FEMA a loan program called the Community Disaster Loan Program. Currently as constructed, there is a \$5 million limit per loan per community under the rules that govern distributions of these loans. There is also a funding limitation of some considerable concern in light of the community needs pursuant to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The purpose of this legislation is to designate \$700 million of previously appropriated funds for the purpose of making them available under the provisions of the current Community Disaster Loan Program.

Secondly, the bill would waive the \$5 million arbitrary cap in light of the current need, but only as to the \$700 million specified, and only as to the final disposition of the need for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Pursuant to those modifications, the Senate has also adopted a provision which would not allow the waiver of repayment which has been historically

the case over the course of the administration of the Community Disaster Loan Program. The bill as now constructed does not permit the waiver of repayment of these loan obligations. This will in effect create a \$700 million loan program which must be repaid by the communities which have suffered the Katrina-Rita losses without a limit as to the \$5 million cap on a per-loan consideration.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Further reserving the right to object, and I thank the gentleman for that explanation. Earlier this week, under the leadership of our chairman of the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), 10 House Members traveled to the three principally affected Gulf States to see firsthand the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

We met with officials in Baton Rouge at the Joint Operation Center for New Orleans and then on through Mississippi and Alabama, during which session the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) made, I thought, a superb, a superlative presentation of the history of the storm and the disastrous affects of Katrina and the consequences on the people and the businesses and the need for reconstruction.

Citizens of the Gulf States are doing everything they can to pick up where the storm left off and rebuild their lives. As we saw, nearly a month after the storm, they are still hurting. After 5 weeks of debris removal, the debris remaining is overwhelming.

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Local governments' tax base is gone. In our meeting with Mayor Nagin, the mayor of New Orleans, he pointed out that the city of New Orleans accounts for 35 percent of the total economy of the State of Louisiana.

Of course, we also know very well that New Orleans is the world's most important grain export facility. Yet grain is backed up all along the Mississippi, the soybean crop coming in that will not be able to move until New Orleans is able to operate.

In the course of our meeting, Mayor Nagin said, with a heavy heart, with candor, that he had to leave that meeting and go to another news conference to announce layoff of half of the municipal workforce of New Orleans because the city has no revenue coming in and no ability to pay its workforce.

But it was not just New Orleans. We heard that in Bay St. Louis, we heard it in Biloxi, we heard it in Mobile. We saw the pain. This legislation is desperately needed. I support the transfer of \$750 million already appropriated in the emergency supplemental of September 8, transferring that money to FEMA, to the community disaster loan program.

I support waiver of the current \$5 million cap, but I think it is hard to swallow the insistence by the Office of Management and Budget that the loan